

optional.¹¹ The FRBNY noted that although PTC has not changed its rules as specifically required by its commitment, it has addressed the issue that was the subject of that commitment by eliminating the pro rata charge to participants. In addition, the FRBNY stated that PTC has significantly improved its procedures for collection of principal and interest payments by encouraging issuers to use electronic means of payment and by making other operational improvements to accelerate the collection of principal and interest payments made by check.

PTC has functioned effectively as a registered clearing agency for over 8 years. Accordingly, in light of PTC's past performance and the need for continuity of the services PTC provides to its participants, the Commission believes that it is necessary and appropriate in the public interest and for the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions to extend PTC's temporary registration through March 31, 1999. Any comments received during PTC's temporary registration will be considered in conjunction with the Commission's review of PTC's request for permanent registration as a clearing agency under Section 17A¹² of the Act.

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the request for extension of temporary registration as a clearing agency that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the requested extension between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Section, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of PTC. All submissions should refer to File No. 600-25.

On the basis of the foregoing, the Commission finds that PTC's request for

extension of temporary registration as a clearing agency is consistent with the Act and in particular with Section 17A of the Act.

It is Therefore Ordered, that PTC's registration as a clearing agency be and hereby is approved on a temporary basis through March 31, 1999.

For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹³

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-8199 Filed 3-27-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Data Collection Available for Public Comments and Recommendations

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Small Business Administration's intentions to request approval on a new, and/or currently approved information collection.

DATES: Comments should be submitted on or before May 29, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Curtis B. Rich, Management Analyst, Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street, S. W., Suite 5000, Washington, D. C. 20416. Phone Number: 202-205-6629.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: "Title VII Study and Report".

Type of Request: New Request.

Form No: N/A.

Description of Respondents: Service-Disabled Veterans who own and operate Small Businesses.

Annual Responses: 1,360.

Annual Burden: 680.

Comments: Send all comments regarding this information collection to Reginald Teamer, Regional Coordination Specialist, Office of the Assistant Administrator for Veterans Affairs Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street, S.W., Suite 6000, Washington, D.C. 20416. Phone No: 202-205-7278.

Send comments regarding whether this information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the function of the agency, accuracy of burden estimate, in addition to ways to minimize this estimate, and ways to enhance the quality.

Jacqueline White,

Chief, Administrative Information Branch.

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BILLING CODE 8025-01-U

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Interest Rates: Quarterly Determinations

The Small Business Administration publishes an interest rate called the optional "peg" rate (13 CFR 120.214) on a quarterly basis. This rate is a weighted average cost of money to the government for maturities similar to the average SBA direct loan. This rate may be used as a base rate for guaranteed fluctuating interest rate SBA loans. This rate will be 5¾ percent for the April-June quarter of FY 98.

Pursuant to 13 CFR 120.921(b), the maximum legal interest rate for a commercial loan which funds any portion of the cost of a project (see 13 CFR 120.801) shall be the greater of 6% over the New York prime rate or the limitation established by the constitution or laws of a given State. The initial rate for a fixed rate loan shall be the legal rate for the term of the loan.

Jane Palsgrove Butler,

Acting Associate Administrator for Financial Assistance.

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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Social Security Ruling, SSR 98-1p; Title XVI: Determining Medical Equivalence in Childhood Disability Claims When a Child Has Marked Limitations in Cognition and Speech

AGENCY: Social Security Administration.

ACTION: Notice of Social Security Ruling.

SUMMARY: In accordance with 20 CFR 402.35(b)(1), the Commissioner of Social Security gives notice of Social Security Ruling, SSR 98-1p. This Ruling results from the "top-to-bottom" review of the implementation of changes to the Supplemental Security Income childhood disability program necessitated by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-193). It provides a policy interpretation that children who have a "marked" limitation in cognitive functioning and a "marked" limitation in speech have an impairment or combination of impairments that medically equals Listing 2.09. It also provides guidance for determining when a child has a "marked" or an "extreme" limitation in each of these areas.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 30, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ken Nibali, Social Security Administration,

¹¹ Letter from William Wiles, Secretary of the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, to John Sceppe, President and Chief Executive Officer, PTC dated (July 30, 1997).

¹² 15 U.S.C. 78q-1.

¹³ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(50).